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Business Expo hailed a huge success
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Ferrari driver jailed over death of teenager in crash

By Owen Hughes

A DRIVER who caused the death of a 13-year-old boy when he flipped his Ferrari on a farm road in North Warnborough has been jailed for 18 months.

Matthew Cobden, 39, of Long Lodge Drive, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, was found guilty of causing death by careless driving by a jury at Winchester Crown Court earlier this month.

Teenager Alexander Worth, from Kings Worthy, died when Cobden's £1.2million supercar hit a fence post and overturned, throwing the pair from the vehicle.

Neither Cobden nor Alexander were wearing seat belts at the time of the crash.

The trial heard how Cobden had offered to take the young teenager for a spin in the Ferrari F50 before it went back into storage on August 22, 2016.

Cobden, who owns a car storage facility in Hook Road, North Warnborough, had been due to store the vehicle, which had been taken out earlier that day.

Alexander got into the car and the pair drove off for a short ride around the public-accessed lane from the storage warehouse.

After travelling a short distance, Cobden lost control of the vehicle and collided with fencing at the side of the track.

• Continues on page 3

Eggstraordinary fundraising effort

Generous Basingstoke folk have donated hundreds of chocolate eggs to charity in time for Easter. Collections were arranged by Access Self Storage Basingstoke who raised a bounty of eggs for its chosen charity of the year Northampton Medical Fund for advanced medical equipment for Basingstoke Hospital. Molly Hawkins from the fund is pictured collecting around 300 eggs from Mike Blaszkowicz from Access Self Storage. To see who else has been collecting eggs for hospitals, hospices and charities turn to page 3

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Annual business expo hailed a huge success

By Owen Hughes

THE region's largest gathering of leading businesses took place in Basingstoke last week with more than 50 organisations sharing ideas, advice and networking.

The Basingstoke Business Expo welcomed in excess of 500 visitors with a wide range of businesses from SMEs to established firms engaging in the event.

The main exhibition hall featured businesses showcasing their services at the Apollo Hotel on Thursday last week.

Seminars and workshops were held throughout the day on topics such as using LinkedIn, understanding Google Analytics, and tips for thriving during change.

Among the keynote speakers was Mitch Lloyd, owner of Petra Jewellery, who gave a talk on Fluffy Stuff versus Finance while others shared their business nous.

The event was organised by Neal Purvey and Julie Corlett of thebestof Basingstoke who joined with B2B Expos to run the event.

Neal said: "As an organiser, we have achieved our goal, making the annual event bigger and more diverse this year."



Biffa won the award for best stand on the day

"We couldn't have been more pleased with the turnout. I would like to thank the exhibitors, speakers and sponsors and everyone else involved."

And proving that business is not boring, there were some great exhibition stands with Biffa Waste Services taking the award for best stand, and finalists Safe Hands Bookkeeping and Vivo HR. All were extremely keen to win and showed that waste management, bookkeeping and HR can be

both colourful and exciting.

Visitors also benefitted from a park and ride service specifically for the expo, with attendees even tweeting their photos with the friendly coach driver Maggie throughout the day and trending locally.

Organisers are now preparing for next year's event.

The first free-to-attend exhibition was held in 2011 and it regularly attracts between 500 and 800 visitors.

Rider snatched £4,500 watch from motorist's wrist

A MOPED rider snatched a £4,500 watch from the wrist of a motorist in Basingstoke last week.

Police are on the lookout for the deft thief who pulled up on his moped next to the white Audi R8 driver waiting at a mini roundabout and asked to see his watch before making off with the expensive item.

The incident happened at about 8.45am on Friday at the mini roundabout at the junction of Cufaude Lane,

Hanmore Road and Crockford Lane.

The moped approached on the driver's right hand side and asked for the time.

The driver held out his arm to show the man his Tag Heuer Calibre 16 watch, worth about £4,500, at which point the rider pulled it from his arm.

The driver then pushed the rider from his moped and an altercation ensued before both people left the scene. The moped rider rode off with

the watch towards Hanmore Road, down Thornhill Way and then onto a footpath.

The suspect was described as white, about 18 to 20 years old, between 65kg to 70kg, and was wearing a large black jacket, black trainers, blue jeans and a black helmet with a red strap.

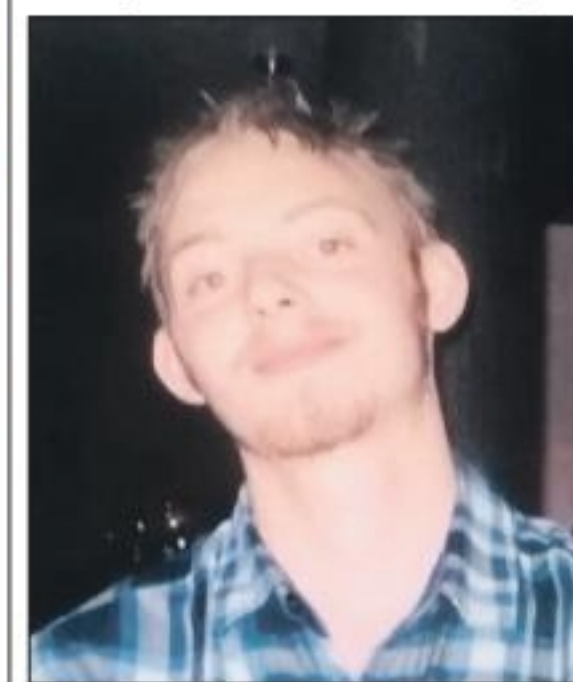
Witnesses or anyone who has been offered a Tag Heuer Calibre watch for sale should call police on 101 quoting reference 44180108418.

Tributes paid to driver, 27, killed on A33

THE family of a driver who died following a collision in Kings Worthy on Monday have paid tribute saying he will be "sorely missed by everyone".

Police are appealing for witnesses following the fatal collision on the A33 Basingstoke Road that left two people dead and another with serious injuries.

Christopher Tarrant, 27, of Dryden Close, Basingstoke, was driving a silver BMW that collided with a tree shortly before 1.50am on Monday.



He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Christopher's family said: "Chris, known to all as Tosh, was a loving son, brother, dad, uncle and friend."

"He was just 27 years old and taken at such a young age."

"His motto was 'YOLO' - you only live once. He will be sorely missed by everyone. Gone but not forgotten."

The 27-year-old female front seat passenger, also from Basingstoke, was pronounced dead at the scene.

A 21-year-old Basingstoke woman, who was travelling in the back of the car, was treated for serious injuries at Southampton General Hospital.

Investigations into the exact circumstances of the collision are ongoing. Anyone with information should call 101 quoting 44180111573.

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On the ball at rugby club quiz

BASINGSTOKE quizzers proved the pen is mightier than the scrum to produce a winning result raising vital funds for charity.

Teams kicked-off the close-fought contest at the inaugural Basingstoke Rugby Club Charity Quiz on Thursday last week touching-down to raise more than £1,250 for Ark Cancer Centre Charity.

Club sponsors competed against one another at the rugby team's Down Grange headquarters to raise money for Basingstoke RFC president Dr Steve Tristram's charity of the year.

Ark supporter Andy Jackson from main sponsor Champion Group played quizmaster while Mark Dolby from Beaufort Financial drew raffle tickets and updated quizzers on fundraising

plans for the Arkriders group.

Basingstoke RFC's vice-chairman Dave Cook led eventual champions from the PDCM team to glory, pipping Lamb Brooks Solicitors to first place after a tie-break.

Mark Jones from Ark said the quiz was "another great show of support" for the charity and was "grateful to everyone who was involved".

"Ark is proud to have such great backing from everyone at this community-focused sports club as well as our other wonderful Our Partner corporate sponsors, many of whom came along to the quiz night."

The £1,259 raised on the night will go towards the £5million needed for the charity's new centre to support chemotherapy and radiotherapy patients.



The PDCM team who won the first Basingstoke RFC Charity Quiz

Ferrari driver jailed for death of teenage boy

From front page

Although Cobden survived after suffering serious injuries and being taken to hospital for treatment, Alexander was pronounced dead at the scene.

Cobden was later charged with causing the death of Alexander by careless driving, which he denied.

On Monday, Cobden was sentenced to 18 months in prison and disqualified from driving for two years and nine months after a jury found him guilty by a majority verdict 10-2.

Following the sentencing, Sgt Rik Grant, from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: "This is a truly tragic case where a young boy has lost his life."

"His family have been left devastated by this but they have shown great courage throughout this heart-breaking investigation."

"This sentence today could never make up for losing Alexander but I hope that it will bring some form of closure to his family."

"When driving such a powerful car, Cobden should have been in total control of the vehicle and taken all precautions to ensure he and his young passenger were safe."

"If anything can be taken away from this collision, I hope that by seeing how important it is to wear a seatbelt, regardless of the length or location of your journey, it might prevent another family going through this nightmare."

Funding bid boost to Manydown

By Owen Hughes

THE Manydown development for 3,500 homes in north Basingstoke has moved a step closer to receiving a multi-million pound government investment.

Manydown will join 44 projects from across the country going through to the next round of bidding for a slice of the £4.1billion Forward Funding pot for large-scale vital infrastructure for new communities.

Housing Secretary Sajid Javid revealed on Wednesday last week that Manydown had been shortlisted for the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

He said: "This government is com-

mitted to working with communities to build the homes this country needs and ensure the right infrastructure is in place to support them.

"We will now be working closely with 45 areas shortlisted to apply for government investment, including Hampshire."

"These key projects will help unlock more much needed homes by delivering the roads, schools and doctors' surgeries that communities need."

Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have led the bid as joint leasehold owners of the land.

An outline planning application submitted 12 months ago set out prin-

ciples for developing the new community of up to 3,500 new homes, businesses, shops and facilities, including two new primary schools and land for a secondary school.

The application, which also includes a 250-acre country park, is now under construction.

Councillor John Izett, Basingstoke's cabinet lead on Manydown, said: "Basingstoke is very clearly seen by the government as a key, reliable partner in the South East able to provide the new houses the borough, and the country as a whole, needs urgently."

"This funding would make a significant difference to helping to pay for

the substantial upfront infrastructure costs of the development.

"Working together, the two councils, alongside our accomplished development partner Urban&Civic and backed substantially by the government, will be able to deliver a new well-designed and built community at Manydown that will benefit both existing and new residents."

Urban&Civic, partnered by the Wellcome Trust, was announced last month as the private sector development partner to deliver the ambitious plans.

In February, Manydown was awarded £10.3m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

A cracking amount of eggs donated

From front page

Access Self Storage manger Mike said: "Even in the snow, people managed to get eggs to us and together we have smashed last year's incredible collection."

"It is truly amazing to see such a kind community rally to support this charity Easter appeal."

Molly Hawkins from the Northampton Medical fund said: "We're totally blown away by the incredible number of donations."

"We are thrilled that the eggs

will be raffled off to raise money for our fund, which will then be used to buy life-saving equipment for Northampton Hospital."

Access Self Storage Basingstoke is currently in top place in this year's Charity Easter Egg appeal.

Shoppers could donate an egg from their trolley at Sainsbury's and Tesco, pictured, based in Festival Place, cracking a six-year record by collecting a smashing 315 eggs that will be delivered in time for Easter.



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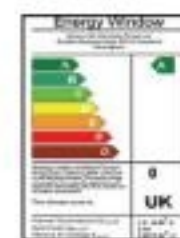
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Accidental fly-tippers face £400 waste fines

'Rubbish must be disposed of correctly'

By Owen Hughes

BASINGSTOKE residents could be hit with an automatic £400 fine for 'accidental fly-tipping' if their rubbish ends up on the streets.

Under government proposals launched in January, on-the-spot fines will be dished out to home owners who turn a blind eye to what happens with their rubbish after they hand it over.

It is already a criminal offence if a resident's rubbish ends up being fly-tipped, even if they don't know it will be, but few people are prosecuted by councils due to the costs involved in taking people to court.

The public consultation, which ended on Monday, proposes giving local authorities the option of fining those whose waste ends

up fly-tipped or illegally dumped rather than having to pursue them through the courts.

Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Councillor Hayley Eachus said they would welcome the introduction of this scheme.

She said: "It will complement the relatively recent fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping."

"It means our enforcement options are more robust, and we can follow up with those who don't check where their waste is being taken, as well as those who fly-tip, more effectively."

"Our ultimate aim is to educate people and make them take notice of their responsibilities for disposing of waste in the proper way."

Fixed penalty notices will be

issued if the accused cannot show they took reasonable steps to ensure a licensed waste operative was handling their rubbish.

Environment minister Theresa Coffey said: "Waste crime and fly-tipping blight our communities and spoil our countryside, and we need determined action to tackle it."

"These new powers for the Environment Agency will curb the rise of waste sites that continue to operate outside the law."

"But we must all take responsibility for our waste to make sure it does not end up in the hands of criminals who will wilfully dump it."

Basingstoke and Deane residents should report illegally dumped waste on the council website at: <http://bit.ly/2tSkoLP>



Thieves threaten employee with a pole

DETECTIVES have released a CCTV image as part of their investigation into a robbery at a Basingstoke bookmakers last week.

Two men entered the Coral at The Camrose football ground in Winchester Road armed with a wooden pole at around 9.45pm on Wednesday March 21.

The men, who had their faces covered, threatened the lone

staff member with the weapon and stole more than £400 before running out of the shop towards Western Way.

The 21-year-old male employee was not injured and nobody else was inside the store at the time.

The first man is described as white, around 5ft 10ins to 6ft tall, of medium build and wore a long-sleeved hi-vis jacket, dark trousers and covered his face with a

black scarf.

The second man was also white and around 5ft 10ins tall, of medium build and wore a black hooded top with the hood up.

Detective Constable Lisa Robins said: "This was a cowardly attack on a lone member of staff."

Anyone who recognises the men or saw anything unusual should call police on 101 quoting reference 44180106380.

InBrief

Motorist killed

A 70-year-old man died on the A303 Norton junction in Sutton Scotney when his Mercedes E220 left the eastbound carriageway and came to rest in a ditch.

Police attended the fatal single-vehicle collision at about 6pm on Friday but the driver was pronounced dead at the scene.

Witnesses or anyone with dash-cam footage should call 101 quoting 44180109159.

Murder charge

A SECOND man has been charged with murder following the death of Jason Williams, 41, whose body was found in a Basingstoke park last month.

Kasey Wayne Rolfe, 37, of no

fixed abode, was due to appear at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court yesterday (Wednesday) as we went to press.

Mr Williams' body was found in Russell Howard Park shortly before 1.30am on Tuesday February 20.

David John Brewer, 34, of West Ham Close, is due to appear at Winchester Crown Court in May charged with murder.

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Police dogs under threat

POLICE dogs could be for the chop as forces consider making cuts to make savings.

Up to 60 officers and their canine companions from the joint Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Constabulary dog section face severe cut backs as plans to make reductions are considered.

The forces made the decision in December last year to cut the unit.

In the dog unit, six sergeants and 54 constables have at least one general purpose dog.

Some officers also have a second dog with specialist capabilities, such as explosive search, victim recovery and specialist search skills.

In February, Thames Valley Police



Chief Constable Francis Habgood also told the mounted section the force could not assure its long-term future.

An online petition to save the mounted section has reached more than 1,200 signatures.



Police dogs Poppy Duffy and Ace provide a valuable function within the police force

InBrief

Hoaxer arrested

A 19-year-old from Watford was arrested on Wednesday last week after Hampshire schools were targeted as part of a mass hoax bomb threat.

Hundreds of schools closed as a result of the malicious email threatening to detonate a bomb if money was not handed over.

A National Crime Agency spokesperson said: "We understand parents' and teachers' concerns but stress there was no credible threat to the emails schools received."

"However, we are taking the communications extremely seriously."

"As this is now a live investigation we are unable to comment further."

Hampshire Constabulary advised schools in the county not to evacuate after receiving the bomb threat last week.

A police spokesperson said "there were schools in Hampshire affected" but would not go into the details of which ones.

Quiz chief constable

THE Police and Crime Commissioner is inviting residents to submit questions for him to put to the Chief Constable at a strategy meeting next month.

PCC Michael Lane will challenge the Chief Constable on police priorities and raise the concerns of the public.

Questions should be submitted by midday on Monday April 2 to Richard Martin on 01962 871595 or email opcc@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Rating proof of 'justice for victims'

By Owen Hughes

HAMPSHIRE Constabulary has been rated 'good' by an industry watchdog after tackling more than a quarter more crimes in 2017/18 despite pressure from increasing cutbacks.

The force was awarded the positive grade by independent assessors from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) for its investigation capability and for protecting vulnerable people.

Data released by the force on Thursday last week shows Basingstoke has seen an improvement of more than 29

per cent in 'formal outcomes' between March 2017 and March 2018 compared with the same period the previous year.

The figure also indicates an increase of more than 10 per cent in reports of crime, jumping from 1,620 to 2,092.

Overall, officers have achieved 4,790 more 'formal outcomes' in tackling crimes in the county; a 25 per cent increase on the previous year.

More criminal charges, out-of-court disposals and convictions in court all count towards the increased number of 'formal outcomes'.

The force attributes the impressive performance to a renewed focus on

high harm offences.

Deputy Chief Constable Sara Glen said: "We welcome today's news as a positive endorsement that we are on track."

"Policing has never been more difficult but one clear measure of effectiveness is the number of positive outcomes we achieve, and we've delivered more than last year."

"Despite fewer officers, more justice is being delivered for victims of crime."

"We have made further significant improvements since the inspection happened in the middle of 2017 and in doing so already addressed areas of concern in the report."

In 2016, Hampshire Constabulary was told it requires improvement in two of the four sub-categories of effectiveness, namely 'investigating crime' and 'protecting vulnerable people'.

Police and Crime Commissioner Michael Lane said: "Today, policing is under pressure due to an increase in demand, a shift to more complex and resource intensive crimes, and continued financial constraints."

"It is the determination and commitment of the whole workforce to protect the vulnerable, and keep us safer that has meant that Hampshire Constabulary has justly received this good rating."

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Stopgap Dance
Company is among
those performing at
Basingstoke Festival

Expect the unexpected at summer arts festival

By Owen Hughes

VISITORS are being told to expect the unexpected ahead of the annual Basingstoke Festival.

The theme for the near month-long event will be Art in Unexpected Places when it returns for a seventh successive year this summer.

More than 100 diverse events will feature on the programme during three weeks of the festival, which takes place from Friday June 15 until Sunday July 8.

The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council-run event promises a wealth of talent in places you wouldn't expect, from shops and businesses to libraries and parks across every corner of the borough.

Deputy council leader Terry Reid, who is responsible for art and culture, said: "This year, the

festival offers world class experiences including a performance by Rufus Wainwright and amazing street theatre to outdoor acts popping up in the most unexpected places.

"We are delighted to welcome the highly-acclaimed Stopgap Dance Company and the award-winning Ballet Cymru who will present a sparkling, refreshing ballet based on the classic fairy tale Cinderella – and this is just a sample of the incredible line-up we have this year.

"There will also be the usual 'home-grown' focus on local talent including artists, theatre practitioners, singers and musicians.

"We are delighted that once again we will be reaching out to every corner of the borough through the Festival in the Community programme, and we urge local residents to get in touch so

that they can participate in the festival, which grows in size and popularity each year."

Basingstoke Festival will celebrate the heritage of the borough in addition to hosting the Festival in the Community local event for a second year, helping to bring arts and performances to underused places.

To keep up to date with the latest news from Basingstoke Festival 2018 follow @BstokeFestival on Twitter and Instagram, like 'Basingstoke Festival' on Facebook or visit: www.basingstokefestival.co.uk

The council is also encouraging people to host a Festival in the Community event.

For more information contact Donna Makins by emailing festival@basingstoke.gov.uk or calling 01256 845238 before Friday April 13.

Pupils enjoy out of school learning

A SCHOOL in Basingstoke treated its young learners to a series of field trips to educate them on the wider Hampshire community.

Reception pupils at Merton Infant School made the short trip north to Wellington Country Park to learn about how farm animals grow and the food chain.

The children watched spring chicks hatch from eggs in time for Easter and observed them developing.

Meanwhile, Year One children

travelled far, far away to the land of 'Once Upon a Time' to create their own movie trailers based on their favourite stories.

Deputy headteacher Zoe Wisken said: "We have seen some very talented actors and actresses at Merton Infant School.

"As part of our geography learning, the children have explored Popley both on foot and interactively using Google Earth.

"The children were very excited about seeing their com-

munity up close as well as from up in space.

"The children were especially surprised with how much Popley had changed throughout the years."

Year Two children had the opportunity to dress up for a trip back in time to Southampton for a lesson on the Titanic.

The eager learners visited the SeaCity museum before making a junk model replica of the historical Jewel of the Ocean.

Man sought over recall to prison

POLICE have launched a hunt for a Basingstoke man who has breached the terms of his licence.

Officers have followed various lines of enquiry to locate Colin West, 40, who is wanted on recall to prison for breach of licence.

Police are now turning to the public for help locating the missing man.

West is described as white, 6ft tall, with short, brown hair, green eyes, and has a small scar on his forehead.

He also has some distinctive tattoos, with a flame design on the

right side of his neck, and a skull tattoo on his chest.

Hampshire Constabulary thinks West could be in the Basingstoke area but he also has links to Kent and London.

Police are advising anyone who thinks they see West, or who knows where he is, not to approach him but call police immediately on the non-emergency 101 number, quoting reference 44170487822.

Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously to leave information on 0800 555 111.



Police are searching for Colin West, he has breached the terms of his licence



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Big-hearted performers and audience help boost funds

BASINGSTOKE performers raised more than £100 for charity after a heart-stopping show earlier this month.

Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society put on a performance to remember of Fiddler on the Roof at the Haymarket Theatre to raise vital funds for the British Heart Foundation.

Staff and audience members alike dropped a total of £103.06 into the collection bucket that will go towards the charity's lifesaving research.

Gemma Hodgkiss, BHF fundraising manager for Hampshire, said: "We're so grateful to BAOS for raising this fabulous total."

"Every donation we receive is helping us to end the heartbreak of heart disease, and we would like to say a

huge thank you to the audience, cast and theatre staff for their support.

"In the Basingstoke and Deane area alone, 316 people will die from cardiovascular disease each year, with 90 of these people under 75. It's only thanks to the efforts in communities across the country that we'll be able to fund even more research into these conditions to support friends and family on your doorstep."

BHF is committed to funding half a billion pounds of new research over the next five years which will be central to discovering vital treatments for people living with heart and circulatory conditions.

Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society helped raise more than £100 for the British Heart Foundation



InBrief

Park up for award

A BASINGSTOKE business park is one of two finalists competing for a regional property award.

Basing View's nomination for the Business Park Innovation award recognises the role the park plays in the region's economy.

Work-life balance, facilities and innovation in transport are among the criteria. The Thames Valley Property Awards are on May 3 at Ascot Racecourse.

Delays for pipe work

MOTORISTS in Hook are warned to expect delays as work begins on laying a new 1.4km pipeline along Griffin Way South.

South East Water is laying the pipeline to allow more drinking water to be pumped into the village.

Work is due to start on Tuesday after Easter weekend and will continue towards Bartley Way roundabout.

Fire safety bill

BASINGSTOKE MP Maria Miller introduced a fire safety information bill in Parliament last week.

The Ten Minute Rule Bill, which gained cross-party support, will require the "responsible person" to hold an annual fire safety information meeting for residents.

Mrs Miller said she made enquiries about high rise buildings and the bill "should go some way towards addressing residents' concerns" after the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Helping the community to thrive

By Owen Hughes

WINKLEBURY residents' vision for the long-term regeneration of their community was outlined to council members last week.

Community action group members discussed the group's detailed vision for how residents want to see the area develop and flourish to make Winklebury a better place to live.

The group outlined key points of the community plan, published late last year following consultation with residents in the area, setting out a series of actions to work towards when it met

representatives from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, housing association VIVID and architects on March 20.

Borough councillor Terri Reid said: "The council has listened to the local community and their vision for the area and we really want to take the local residents on this journey of regeneration with them."

"This process won't happen in isolation and with developments nearby, including Manydown, we need to make sure there are close links so that the community gets the greatest benefit."

Chair of Winklebury Community

Action Group Wendy Moore said: "We are encouraged that all the partners are willing to take into consideration the concerns of Winklebury residents whilst planning the regeneration of the community."

"We look forward to meeting them again as their plans develop to make Winklebury an even better place to live."

Further drop-in sessions, open to all residents, will take place over the summer and autumn.

Leader of Hampshire County Council Councillor Roy Perry said: "Engaging with members of the community and

listening to their views on how they think Winklebury could be regenerated is key to shaping the plans, including the elements which are most needed such as schooling and housing."

"The regeneration of Winklebury is another important example of how Hampshire County Council, in partnership with the borough council can help communities in Basingstoke continue to thrive now and into the future."

Director of New Business and Development at VIVID Mike Shepherd said it was "good to talk directly to members of the Community Action Group" and are exploring their options.

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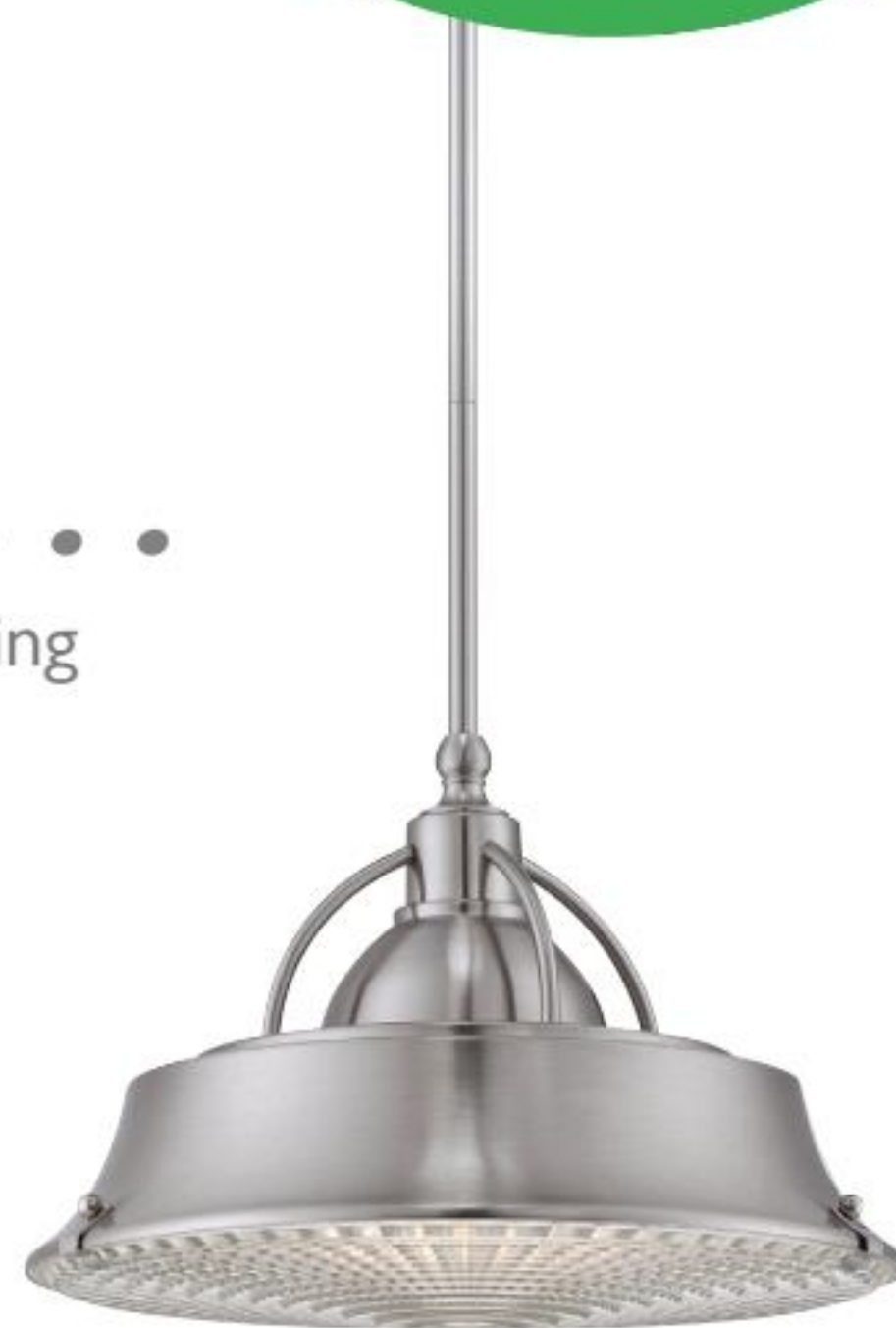


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PROPERTYWEEKLY

Top tips to sell your home this spring

To help speed up your move, our Sales Director, Antony Gibson shares his top tips to sell your home this spring:

Make the first impression count!

Ensuring your property has kerb appeal is one of the most important steps in preparing to sell your home. Make sure you touch up any fading paint, tidy up the garden and remove any unsightly items from view.

Little things make a big difference

Unless rooms are in disrepair, we advise making smaller touches that won't break the bank. Repainting walls, replacing doorknobs and taps are all tiny changes which will make a big difference in the eyes of prospective buyers.

Create the illusion of more space

No home is perfect, there's bound to be an area which you would prefer to be larger. A cleverly placed mirror and some strategic lighting can give the impression that rooms are larger and, make the property more appealing to prospective buyers.

By Romans Group

Help buyers picture themselves in your home

Having furniture in place creates a sense of purpose for each room and helps prospective buyers to visualise themselves using that space.

Even if the property is vacant at the time of selling, we recommend investing in a few items that will clearly illustrate the purpose of each room.

Stand out from the crowd

It's amazing how the simplest of touches can make your property more memorable, from a cleverly used accent colour on a kitchen island, to a flower arrangement on the fireplace, creating a focal point will make buyers remember your home and want to come back for a second visit.

If you are thinking about selling your home, contact Romans for a free, no-obligation valuation on 01256 318 051.



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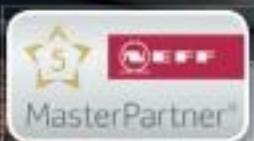
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Take a dip into traditional music

By Josh Cox

DIPPER Malkin are a captivating duo who are rapidly earning a reputation for taking traditional music to new heights.

The two musicians have spent their careers involved in ground-breaking projects. John Dipper worked in The English Acoustic Collective alongside Chris Wood, and currently works with string quartet Methera, while Dave Malkin was a founding member of trio Tandem, stylishly combining traditionally informed compositions with live electronics.

John provides a new lease of life for the viola d'amore, an instrument from the baroque period with seven bowed and seven sympathetic strings, with Dave on the guitar and vocals.

With their highly-anticipated debut release, *Tricks of the Trade*, the pair realised that they are the lucky benefactors of previous generations' invention, celebrating their inheritance through every note, whilst avoiding the trap of complacency by offering their own inventions.

On their debut album release Malkin said: "The greatest compliment we could think to pay to our ancestors, those responsible for this rich and



John Dipper on the viola d'amore and Dave Malkin on guitar have both been involved in ground-breaking projects

fascinatingly idiosyncratic tradition, is to elevate the repertoire they've provided for us".

Dave added: "It's important to us both that we look outwards for inspiration. We aim to present work on a par with contemporary classical music in terms of its intrinsic artistic

value, produced to the standard of a big-budget release, as thrilling and accurately executed as improvised jazz, but most importantly rooted in our tradition."

Songlines Magazine recently raved about the duo saying "there's a rich luxurious feel to the many beautiful

instrumental tunes on this debut".

Dipper Malkin will be performing at The Forge on April 5 from 7.45pm. Tickets cost £15.50; over 65s, under 16s and students £13.50.

Call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244, or book online at anvilarts.org.uk.

On stage

Covers galore!

Continuum Covers Band will be running through popular hits from the likes of Prince, The Supremes, Bruno Mars, The Bee Gees, Elvis and more at The Riverdene in Basingstoke this Saturday at 9pm.

Old school rock

Celebrating a career of more than 45 years, Lindisfarne are coming to The Haymarket on April 6.

They are best known for their albums *Nicely Out of Tune*, *Fog on the Tyne*, the biggest selling UK album in 1972 and *Back and Fourth*. Tickets are £28.50

Jive with The Voice

The 6-5 Jive will be holding their monthly rock and roll show on April 7 at 8.30pm at the Wellington Social Club in Basingstoke with Sammy-Jo Evans, from The Voice UK.

Tickets £10 on the door.

Just peachy!

Head to The Raven in Hook on April 13 as four-piece band Peach will be putting on a free gig from 9pm.

Jasmine, Al, Phil and John will run through a range of covers.



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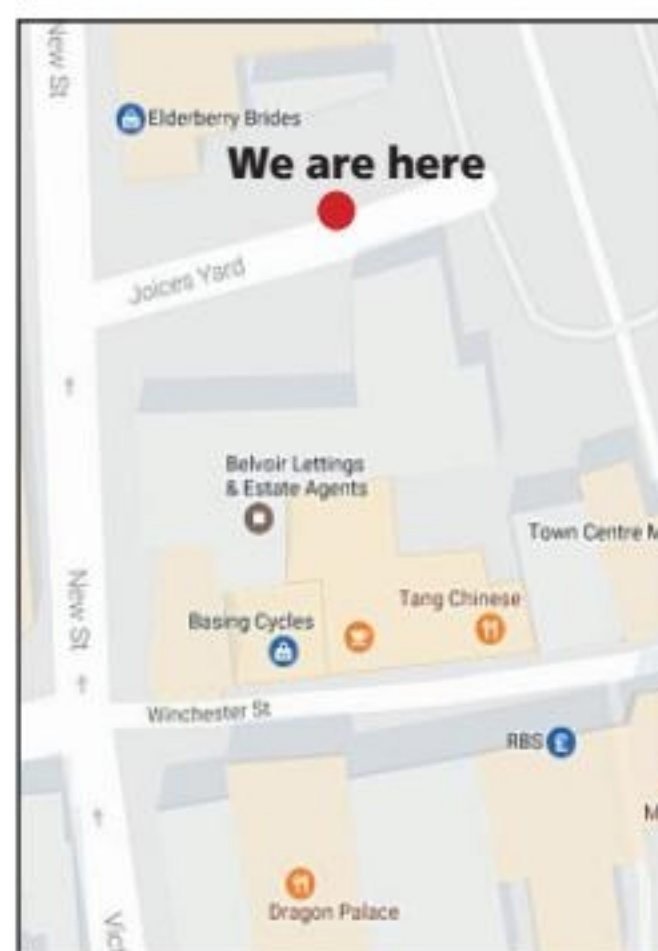
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Renowned pianist's debut On stage

By Josh Cox

INTERNATIONALLY renowned pianist David Fray is to make his debut at The Anvil next month when he joins a performance by the Philharmonia Orchestra.

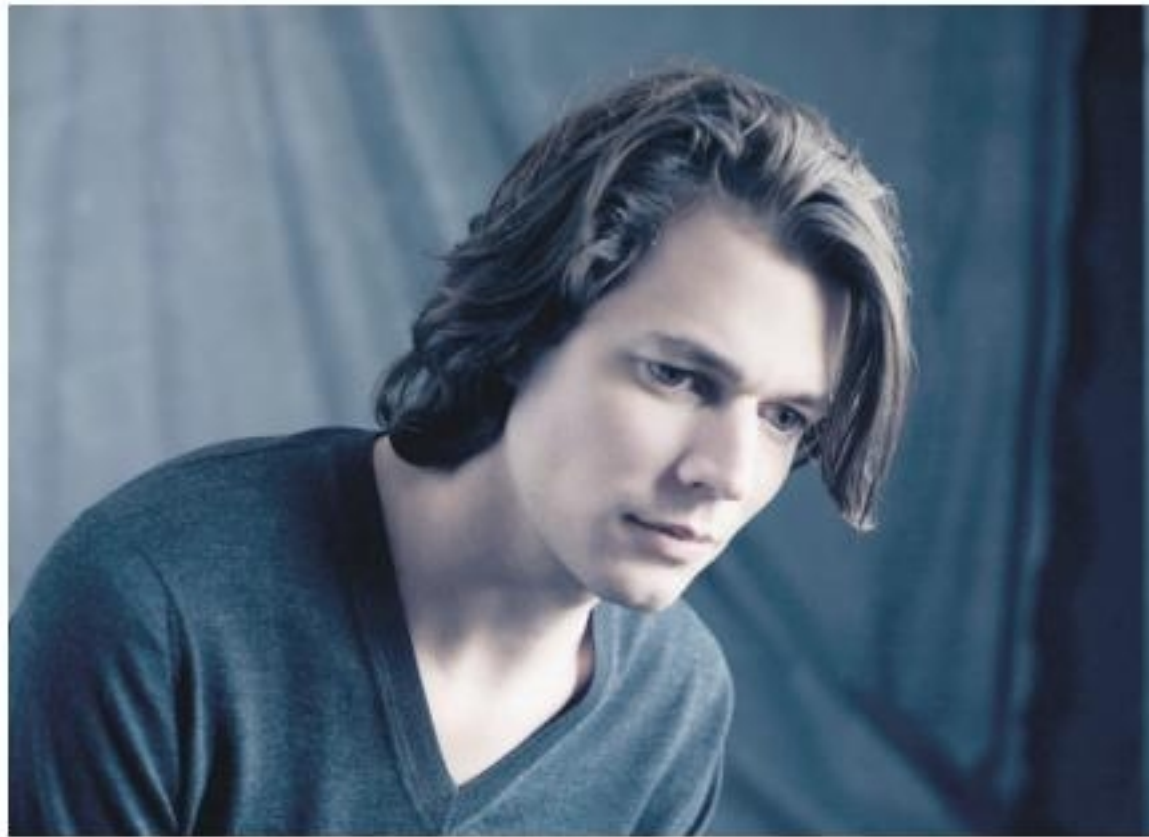
Fray will perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto no. 2 which shows the young composer breaking away from Mozart's model into his own world of emotion, with a tender slow movement and mischievous and sprightly finale.

Following on from that, Mahler's Symphony no.1 proceeds from a magical, hushed opening, via a folk-dance second movement and strange, disconcerting funeral march, to a jubilant finale, and shows the 24-year-old pianist excitedly extending the range of orchestral expression.

Fray started taking piano lessons at the age of four before furthering his studies with Jacques Rouvier at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Paris.

He holds multiple awards including a German honour for Instrumentalist of the Year and the Young Talent Award from the Ruhr Piano Festival.

In 2008 he was named Newcomer of the Year by the BBC Music Magazine. At the 2004 Montreal



International Music Competition, he received both the Second Grand Prize and the prize for the best interpretation of a Canadian work.

The evening will be overseen by Finnish conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen who is currently Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, Conductor Laureate of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Composer-In-Residence at the New

York Philharmonic.

Salonen's restless innovation drives him constantly to reposition classical music in the 21st century.

The orchestra will be in concert on Wednesday April 11 at 7.45pm.

Tickets for the Philharmonia Orchestra are priced from £14 to £40.

For more information or for tickets, call the box office on 01256 844244, or visit anvilarts.org.uk.



Strictly a legend

Strictly's Aljaz and Janette are the headline feature in a new show, Remembering Fred at The Anvil on April 5 at 7.30pm.

Remembering Fred is an evening of song and dance celebrating the legacy of Hollywood great Fred Astaire.

Tickets range from £27 to £44.50.

Beatles classics

The Blue Beatles, a four-piece tribute act will play at The Swan in Sherborne St John from 9pm on April 7.

This is the chance to relive the golden era and hear all of your Beatles favourites delivered with a high level of authenticity.

It's free entry - just go and sing along to all your favourites.

EXCELLENT CUT BARBER SHOP



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HAIRCUT	£12
CLIPPER CUT - ONE GRADE	£10
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HEAD SHAVE	£12
BEARD SHAVE	£11
HOT TOWEL SHAVE	£14
BEARD TRIM	£5

CONCESSIONS

BOYS CUT (Under 13)	Mon to Thurs £10	Fri to Sun £12
OAP's	Mon to Thurs £9	Fri to Sun £12



Opening Times: Mon-Fri 9am-7pm | Saturday 8am-6pm | Sunday & Bank Holidays 10am-5pm

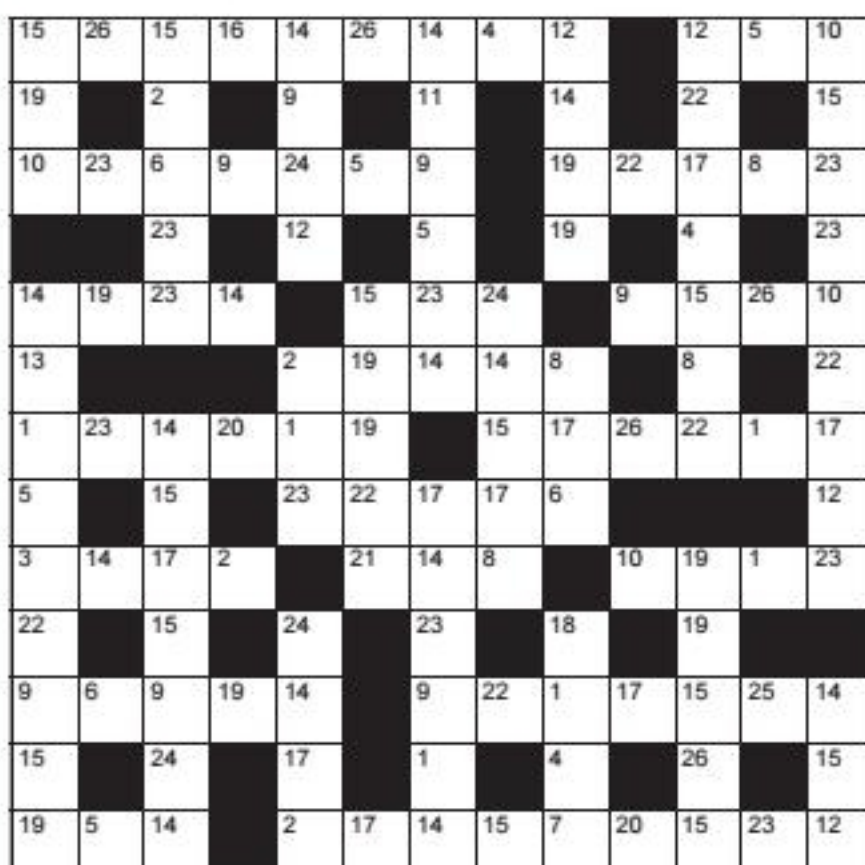
3 Feathers Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 7AS Tel: 01256 364616



puzzle
drome

Your weekly puzzle challenge

CROSS CODE



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
U								C				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		R										

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

UNEVEN NUT, STONE ME!

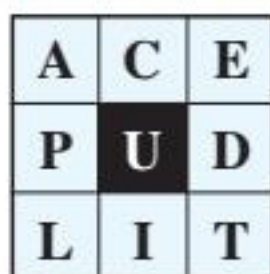
Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.



Quiz Challenge

- Joan of Arc was burned at the stake during the reign of which English king?
- How is Anne Catherick referred to in a title of a 1859 novel by Wilkie Collins?
- Adamstown is the capital of which British Overseas Territory in the Pacific Ocean?
- The Greenwich Meridian passes through the UK, France and which other European country?
- Who, when he won the F1 World Championship in 1982, recorded just one victory during the season?
- What S is a writ ordering a person to attend a court?
- Which book by JK Rowling is set in the fictional town of Pagford?
- Tufted, horned and Atlantic are species of which seabird in the auk family?
- Singer Niall Horan caddied for which golfer at the annual Par 3 contest immediately prior to the 2015 US Masters Tournament?
- Which actress played Margaret Thatcher in the 2011 film The Iron Lady?

NONAGRAM



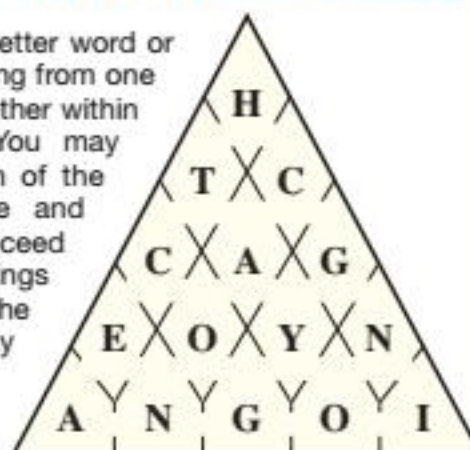
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines: 26 Good; 31 Very Good; 36 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.

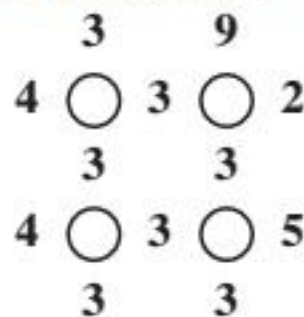


FIVE ALIVE

JO	LU	ID	CE	RY
UC		SO		AI
HM	UA	IS	RI	SC
PR		NU		EH
SE	DL	EG	PE	TS

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

EQUALISER

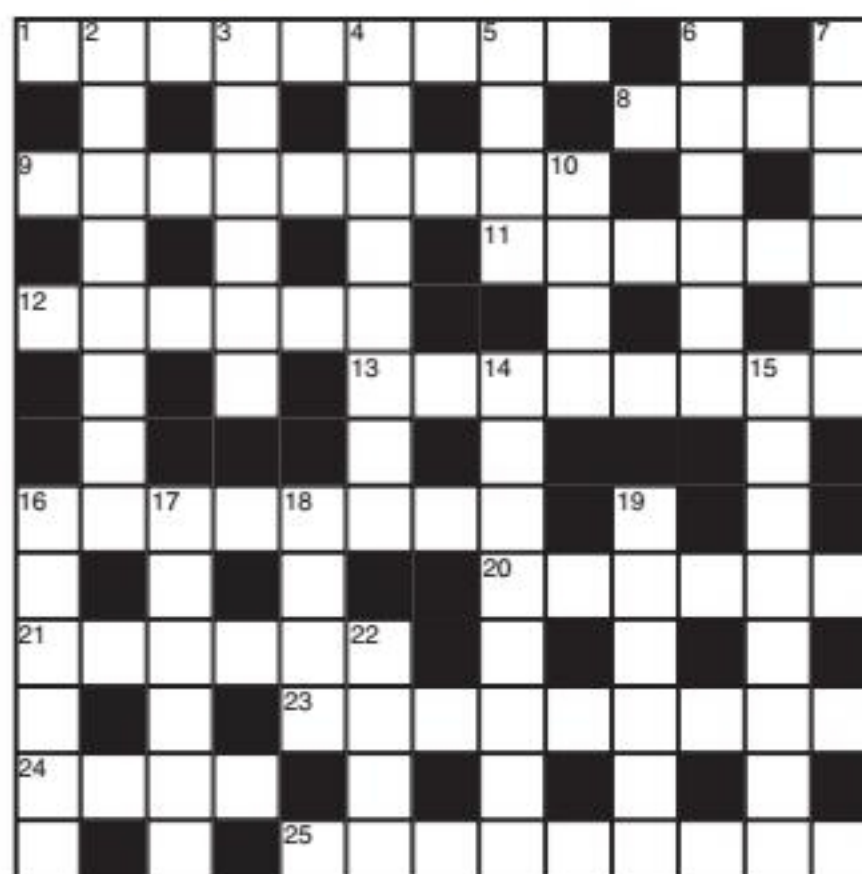


Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same. Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try more of our puzzles interactively online go to www.puzzledrome.com

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



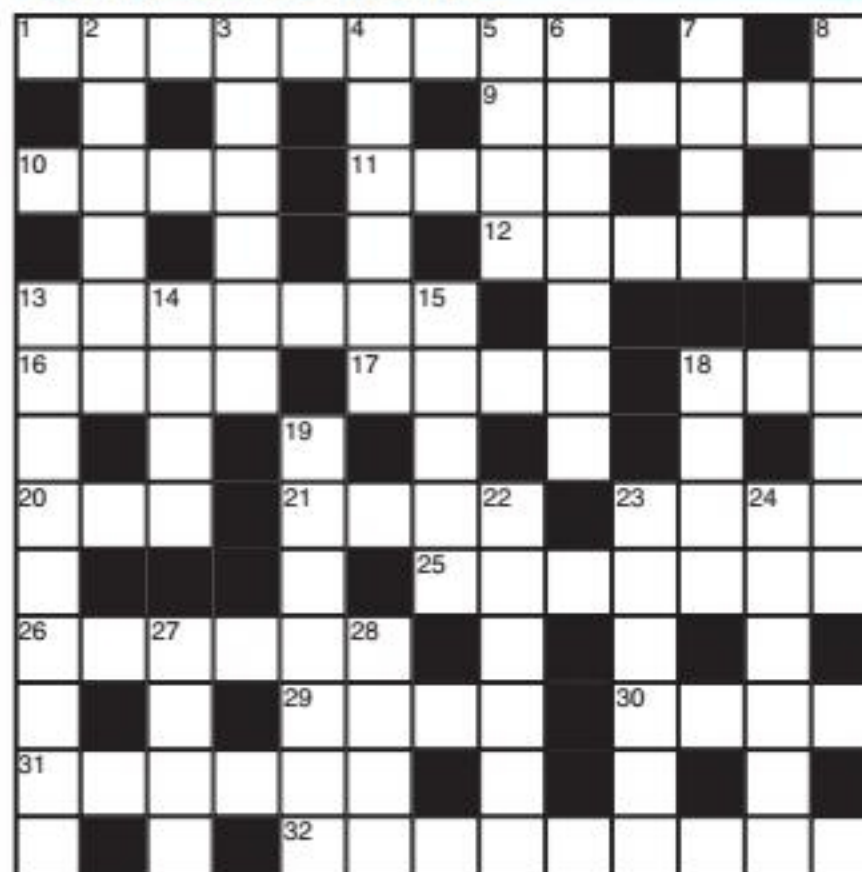
ACROSS

- Type of bread for a full breakfast? (9)
- She followed Eliza to the throne (4)
- Apt Berlin characters worth putting in the newspaper (9)
- Hesitant reply to question as to whose fur it is? (6)
- Note, new tune is needed for the dance (6)
- What the drug addict did gave a new life (8)
- Beset by stress, I had a car crash (8)
- Young child mashed pea in the drink container (6)
- Support the Spanish drive forward (6)
- One not in agreement suffering from abnormal tiredness (9)
- Come up against an objection (4)
- We are at one in this (9)

DOWN

- Shocking if rich or refined (8)
- Pauline oddly loses a place in row (4-2)
- The interval is not a generous period (8)
- Fit bachelor getting in the beer (4)
- Engineer is in the way to oppose (6)
- New Delhi, after Sunday, gets protection (6)
- Bird found in northern Europe (4)
- To abandon aeroplane is not out of order (8)
- Interpreter was on first page of old books (8)
- It would seem to be a soft fruit (6)
- What the farmer likes to see happen casually (4,2)
- Two-way transfer (4)
- Frenchmen keep an antelope in large bottle (6)
- Foreigner without a legal right (4)

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Ready-made (3,3,3)
- Shallow lake (6)
- Aspersions (4)
- Warmth (4)
- Quite modern (6)
- Largest ocean (7)
- Waterless (4)
- Unconscious state (4)
- Hairstyle (3)
- Month (3)
- Amphibian (4)

- Long wailing cry (4)
- Verbatim (7)
- Angel (6)
- Twinge (4)
- Create (4)
- Forest officer (6)
- Dining-hall (9)
- Arctic seabird (6)
- Intensely passionate (6)
- Onomatopoeic (6)
- Flair (4)

- Magnate (anag.) (7)
- Asian desert (4)
- Alert (2,3,4)
- Fortune-telling (9)
- Large town (4)
- Reef material (5)
- Lout (4)
- Plug (7)
- Dell (6)
- Head protection (6)
- Pedestrian (6)
- Chime (4)
- Swift animal (4)

SUDOKU

Easy

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Hard

					5	7		
4			5	9				
			3		1	2		6
			3	2	8	5	7	
	8		1	5	9		4	
2		7				6	3	
	9	1		3			5	
					6	9		
	2		8	6				

3		7	9				6	5
	2			4	1			
						3		
4				2		5		7
						9	4	1
	8							
		5			7			
				3			5	
9	3		6	8				

SOLUTIONS

CROSS CODE: 15: U, 26: R, 15: C, 16: D, 14: E, 26: L, 14: I, 4: A, 12: N, 12: G, 5: Y, 10: O. **ACROSS:** 1. Ready-made (3,3,3) 2. Shallow lake (6) 3. Aspersions (4) 4. Warmth (4) 5. Quite modern (6) 6. Largest ocean (7) 7. Waterless (4) 8. Unconscious state (4) 9. Hairstyle (3) 10. Month (3) 11. Amphibian (4) 12. Long wailing cry (4) 13. Verbatim (7) 14. Angel (6) 15. Twinge (4) 16. Create (4) 17. Forest officer (6) 18. Dining-hall (9) 19. Arctic seabird (6) 20. Intensely passionate (6) 21. Onomatopoeic (6) 22. Flair (4) 23. Magnate (anag.) (7) 24. Asian desert (4) 25. Alert (2,3,4) 26. Fortune-telling (9) 27. Large town (4) 28. Reef material (5) 29. Lout (4) 30. Plug (7) 31. Dell (6) 32. Head protection (6) 33. Pedestrian (6) 34. Chime (4) 35. Swift animal (4)

NONAGRAM: 26 Good; 31 Very Good; 36 Excellent. **WORD PYRAMID:** H, T, C, C, A, G, E, O, Y, N, A, N, G, Y, O, I. **FIVE ALIVE:** JO, LU, ID, CE, RY, UC, SO, AI, HM, UA, IS, RI, SC, PR, NU, EH, SE, DL, EG, PE, TS. **EQUALISER:** 3, 9, 4, 3, 2, 3, 3, 4, 3, 5, 3, 3. **QUICK CROSSWORD:** 1. Ready-made (3,3,3) 2. Shallow lake (6) 3. Aspersions (4) 4. Warmth (4) 5. Quite modern (6) 6. Largest ocean (7) 7. Waterless (4) 8. Unconscious state (4) 9. Hairstyle (3) 10. Month (3) 11. Amphibian (4) 12. Long wailing cry (4) 13. Verbatim (7) 14. Angel (6) 15. Twinge (4) 16. Create (4) 17. Forest officer (6) 18. Dining-hall (9) 19. Arctic seabird (6) 20. Intensely passionate (6) 21. Onomatopoeic (6) 22. Flair (4) 23. Magnate (anag.) (7) 24. Asian desert (4) 25. Alert (2,3,4) 26. Fortune-telling (9) 27. Large town (4) 28. Reef material (5) 29. Lout (4) 30. Plug (7) 31. Dell (6) 32. Head protection (6) 33. Pedestrian (6) 34. Chime (4) 35. Swift animal (4)



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WIN tickets to see The Magic Of Hollywood at The Anvil

Pasha Kovalev winner of Strictly Come Dancing 2014, returns to The Anvil on April 24th with his brand new show 'The Magic of Hollywood'.

This amazing new show, created by Pasha and his long time dance partner Anya Garnis, will be jam packed with sequins, glitz and glamour as Pasha takes to the stage with his sensational dancers and they perform 'Oscar worthy performances' all set to a Hollywood theme.... a night for all the family and not to be missed!

Pasha arrived in the UK in 2011 as one of the professionals on Strictly Come Dancing. His first celebrity partner was Chelsee Healey and they became the nation's favourites when they were runners up to the coveted title. In following years Pasha was partnered with celebrities including Kimberley Walsh, Rachel Riley, Naga Munchetty, Carol Kirkwood, Chizzy Akudolu and of course winning a Strictly Trophy in 2014 with television presenter Caroline Flack.

After the huge success of his tours 'Life Through Dance', 'It's All About

Closing date: Monday, April 16, 2018

You' and 'Let's Dance The Night Away' over the last few years, Pasha will be joined again by his spectacular dancers in an evening of live singing, dance, Hollywood glamour and fun.

In every theatre, Pasha invites a local dance school to perform on stage with him. An incredible opportunity to showcase amazing young talented dancers as a part of Pasha's new show.

It's a dazzling, sensational, stunning, unforgettable, unique, uplifting and interactive show which will entertain audiences of all ages. A perfect night out for fans of Pasha, Dance, Ballroom, Hollywood.... and of course Strictly Come Dancing.

Win tickets!

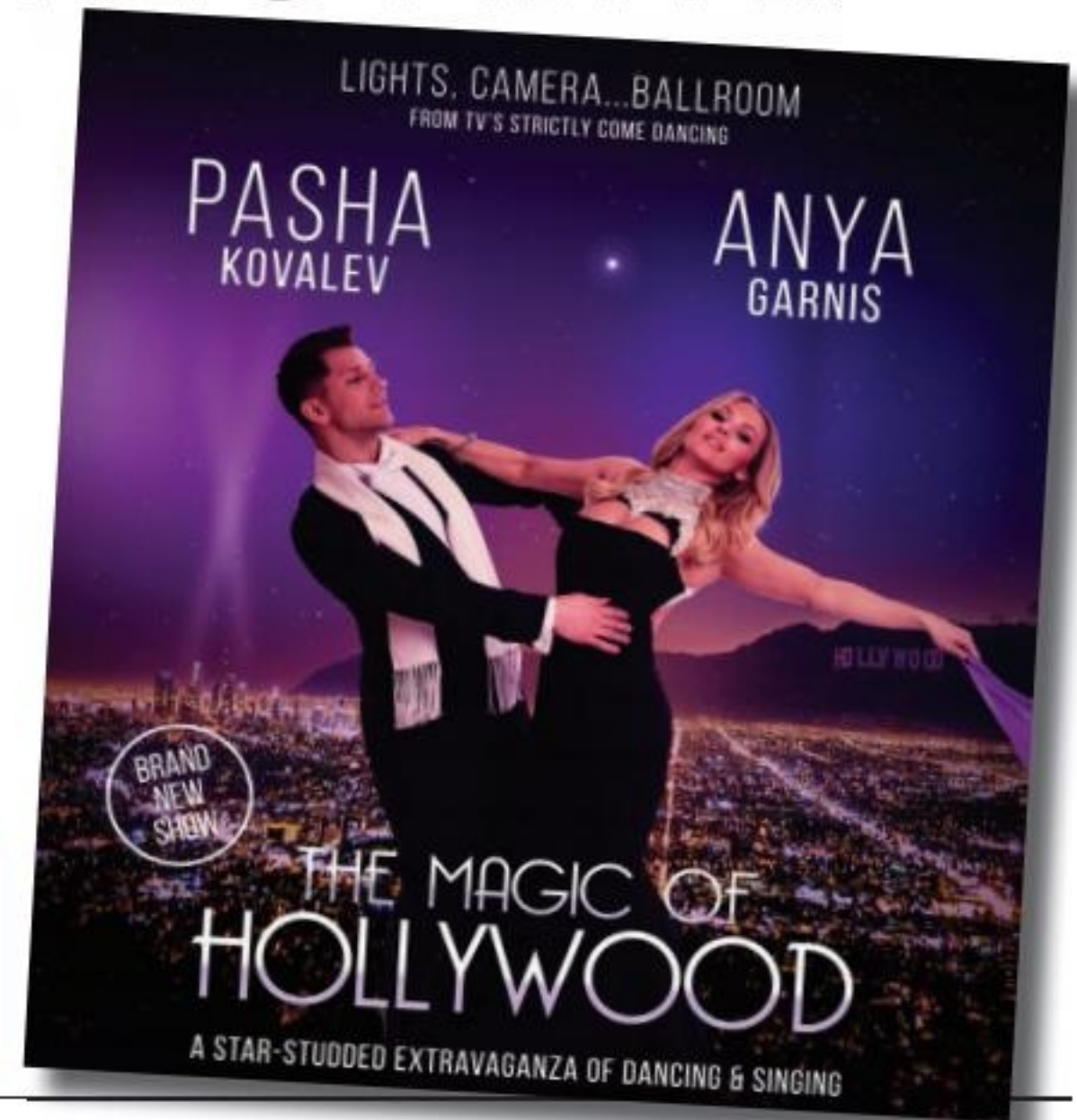
We have a great prize for 2 lucky winners who will each win a pair of tickets to the show at The Anvil!

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic night out all you have to do is answer this simple question:

Q: Who was Pasha's partner when he won Strictly Come Dancing?

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk

For full terms & conditions go to www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk/about-us



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Thursday 5th April, 11am-3pm: The Elizabeth Hall, Raven Rd, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9HH (free car parking on-site subject to availability)

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I will draft and conduct a personalised bespoke ceremony for you and our family to ensure you have the most amazing day of celebration. Sometimes we have to face sad events such as the loss of a relative, a friend or even a beloved pet. I can help support you through this tough time and ensure the lost one's life is truly acknowledged, celebrated and remembered at the ceremony of their passing whether it is at a crematorium, graveside or a woodland burial ground or later at a memorial event.

- Funerals/ Celebration of Life Ceremonies
- Memorial Services
- Pet Burial/ Remembrance

I also offer living funeral service planning to those who wish to agree their funeral ceremonies in advance but find it difficult to speak to close relatives. If you would like further advice on how I can help you plan your ceremony call now on **07971 257 201** or **01256 358 678** or email me at linda@hampshirescelebrants.co.uk



Friday March 30th

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1

1.25pm 102
Dalmatians

9.00am Painting the Holy Land
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am The Sheriffs are Coming
11.45am Claimed and Shamed

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.15pm Regional News and Weather
1.25pm 102 Dalmatians
3.00pm Escape to the Country
4.00pm Money for Nothing
4.45pm Flog It!
5.45pm Pointless

6.30pm BBC News
6.50pm Regional News and Weather
7.00pm The One Show
7.40pm The Silent Child
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Room 101
9.00pm MasterChef
9.30pm Mrs. Brown's Boys
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Spooks: The Greater Good
12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.15am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

3.35pm
The Robe

7.30am Nature's Weirdest Events
8.30am Tinker Bell and the Secret of the Wings
9.40am Muppets Most Wanted
11.15am Six Puppies and Us

12.15pm Growing Up Wild
1.15pm Coast
1.50pm Canterbury Cathedral
2.50pm Talking Pictures
3.35pm The Robe
5.45pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

6.30pm Eggheads
7.00pm The Repair Shop
7.30pm Mastermind
8.30pm Gardeners' World
9.00pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
10.00pm Episodes
10.30pm The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story
11.25pm The Way
1.25am Civilisations
2.25am The Assassination of Gianni Versace - American Crime Story
3.10am This is BBC Two

ITV

9.00pm
Furious 7

7.20am Horrid Henry
8.20am Wishart
8.50am Scrambled! Sketch Show
9.20am Mission Employable
9.25am K-9
11.15am King Ralph

1.15pm Countrywise
1.40pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.50pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm Paul O'grady: For the Love of Dogs
6.30pm ITV News London
6.45pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Love Your Garden
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Furious 7
11.30pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
11.50pm Bear's Mission with Anthony Joshua
12.40am The Durrells
1.30am Jackpot247

Channel 4

7.30pm Food
Unwrapped

7.20am Frasier
7.50am Animals United
9.35am The Big Bang Theory
10.35am The Simpsons
11.05am The Simpsons
11.35am The Simpsons

12.05pm Romancing the Stone
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Star Boot Sale
6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
7.30pm Food Unwrapped
8.00pm Britain's Favourite Food

9.00pm Gogglebox
10.00pm Lee and Dean
10.30pm 8 Out of 10 Cats
11.15pm Rob Beckett's Playing for Time
11.50pm Rude Tube
12.45am The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death
2.25am Electric Dreams
3.25am Damned
3.50am The Question Jury
4.45am Coast v Country
5.40am Streetmate
6.10am Marathon
6.40am Triathlon

Channel 5

3.15pm
The Searchers

8.20am Digby Dragon
8.35am Rusty Rivets
8.55am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.10am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

12.05pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.10pm Home and Away
12.40pm Neighbours
1.10pm Shenandoah
3.15pm The Searchers
5.30pm Neighbours

6.00pm Home and Away
6.25pm 5 News Tonight
6.35pm Kensington Palace: Fit for a Princess
8.00pm Britain's Great Cathedrals with Tony Robinson
9.00pm Jane McDonald and Friends
10.00pm Will and Grace
10.30pm Football on 5
11.30pm Football on 5
12.00am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.00am The X Files
4.45am House Doctor

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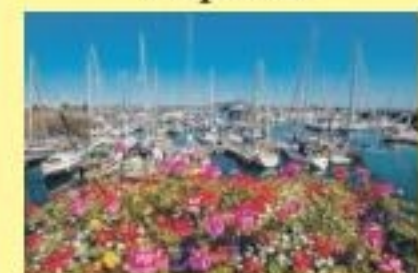
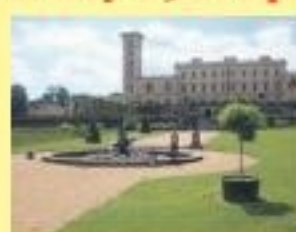
Day Trip to Guernsey
Wednesday 25th April

£69 per person
includes: return coach
travel to Poole, high-
speed ferry crossings,
breakfast and evening
meals on board the ferry.
Yes, our most popular
day trip is back for 2018
and still just £69!



Condor's comfortable and spacious trimaran, takes just 3 hours to get from Poole to Guernsey. Once there, you will have up to 4 hours in which to explore the island's capital of St. Peter Port with its winding cobbled streets and quaint shops. Alternatively, how about a £1 tour of the island (round trip) on a bus. **Duty free shopping** on board the ferry and tax free in Guernsey.

UK passport NOT required.

Day trip to the Isle of Wight, visiting:
Osborne House,
Shanklin with Fish & Chip lunch and
afternoon visit to
the Isle of Wight
Donkey Sanctuary
Sunday 29th April

£69 per person
Price includes:

Coach travel, ferry crossing on Red Funnel's Southampton - East Cowes route (09:00 outbound and 17:30 return), entrance to Osborne house, visit to Shanklin with a fish & chip lunch, and afternoon visit to the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary.

Chartwell House
with lunch and
then in the
afternoon visit
Emmetts Garden
Wednesday 2nd
May £65 pp (£45
National Trust
members)

There's something for everyone at Chartwell, whether you are eager to visit the fascinating rooms of the house, or delve into Sir Winston Churchill's studio, you will gain a real insight into Churchill's private world. We have included lunch at Chartwell house. After lunch we travel the short distance to Emmetts Garden. Emmetts Garden is a hillside garden at Ide Hill with views over the Weald of Kent. Enjoy the ambience of Emmetts Garden with its unique collection of plants and trees. Renowned for its spectacular views.

Bargain Long Weekend Break to Scarborough at the Red Lea Hotel
Friday 11th - Monday 14th May

£289 per person (first 6 single rooms no supplement)

Includes: all coach travel, ensuite accommodation for 3 nights on dinner, room and breakfast basis, live entertainment on Saturday and Sunday, excursions to Robin Hood Bay and Whitby on Saturday, tour of the North Yorkshire Moors on Sunday featuring 'Heartbeat' country including a light lunch at The Goathland Hotel (aka Aidensfield Arms) and the morning in York on Monday



The Red Lea is our favourite hotel in Scarborough it is situated overlooking the picturesque South cliff, the staff are lovely and the food is excellent. The hotel has an indoor heated pool. We make 2/3 comfort stops enroute to Scarborough and on the return journey we spend the morning in the historical City of York. During you stay you will enjoy two excursions, one to Robin Hood Bay and Whitby and the other to 'Heartbeat' Country with a light lunch at the Aidensfield Arms.

Optional supplements: subject to availability.
Double for sole use £36 and double or twin rooms with sea view £20 per person.



Ride Mail Rail at The Postal Museum followed by a visit to the Museum of London Docklands; Wednesday 23rd May; Price: £45 per person. Journey back in time on a specially made train through the original tunnels and station platforms under Mount Pleasant to experience the hidden history of Mail Rail, visit the Postal Museum and in the afternoon visit the fabulous Museum of London Docklands.

Book online: www.justdaysout.co.uk ♦ Tel: 01276 600100 ♦



Saturday March 31st

	TOP TV				
	BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
	3.00pm Shrek Forever After	1.00pm Cromwell	10.15pm The Bourne Identity	9.00pm Taken 3	2.30pm Oklahoma!
MORNING	10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live 11.30am Classic Mary Berry	8.00am Absolute Genius: Monster Builds 8.30am Beyond Bionic 9.00am Robot Wars 10.00am Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family and Me 11.00am Six Puppies and Us	8.30am Thunderbirds are Go 9.05am Wishart 9.25am ITV News 9.30am Saturday Morning with James Martin 11.25am Who's Doing the Dishes?	7.55am Everybody Loves Raymond 8.50am Frasier 10.25am The Big Bang Theory 10.55am The Big Bang Theory 11.20am The Big Bang Theory 11.50am The Simpsons	8.55am Noddy: Toyland Detective 9.05am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.20am Shimmer and Shine 9.40am Digby Dragon 9.55am Peppa Pig 10.10am Gone with the Wind
AFTERNOON	12.00pm Football Focus 1.00pm BBC News 1.15pm Bargain Hunt 2.00pm MasterChef 2.30pm MasterChef 3.00pm Shrek Forever After 4.25pm Final Score 5.15pm A Question of Sport 5.45pm Doodlebugs	12.00pm The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives 1.00pm Cromwell 3.15pm Canterbury Cathedral 4.15pm The Secret Helpers 5.15pm Big Cats	12.25pm ITV Lunchtime News 12.30pm The Harbour 1.00pm Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury 1.30pm Britain's Brightest Family 2.00pm Celebrity Catchphrase 3.00pm Tenable 4.00pm Tipping Point 5.00pm The Chase	12.20pm The Simpsons 12.50pm The Simpsons 1.20pm Come Dine with Me 2.20pm Coast v Country 3.25pm A Place in the Sun 4.25pm A Place in the Sun 5.30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo	2.30pm Oklahoma! 4.00pm 5 News 4.05pm Oklahoma! 5.15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
EVENING	6.00pm Ready or Not 6.30pm BBC News 6.40pm Regional News and Weather 6.45pm Pointless 7.35pm Who Dares Wins 8.20pm Casualty 9.10pm Troy: Fall of a City 10.10pm BBC News 10.30pm Match of the Day 12.00am Forget Me Not 1.30am Weather for the Week Ahead 1.35am BBC News 6.00am Breakfast	6.15pm Easter from King's 7.30pm Dad's Army 8.00pm Attenborough's Wonder of Eggs 9.00pm Hamlet 12.15am Civilisations 1.15am Therese Desqueyroux 3.00am This is BBC Two 6.20am Coast 6.50am Glorious Gardens From Above	6.00pm ITV Evening News 6.15pm ITV News London 6.30pm You've Been Framed! 7.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Take Away 8.30pm The Voice UK 10.00pm ITV News 10.15pm The Bourne Identity 12.20am Goodwood Members' Meeting Highlights 1.10am Jackpot247 3.00am Babushka 3.50am ITV Nightscreen 6.00am Sooty	6.30pm Channel 4 News 7.00pm Coastal Railways with Julie Walters 8.00pm Britain at Low Tide 9.00pm Taken 3 11.15pm AVP: Alien vs. Predator 1.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 1.45am Hollyoaks Omnibus 3.55am The Question Jury 4.50am George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 5.45am Streetmate 6.15am King of Queens	6.15pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away: Final Demand 7.00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald 8.00pm Inside Windsor Castle 8.55pm 5 News Weekend 9.00pm Most Shocking Sexist TV of All Time 10.30pm 20 Moments That Rocked the 80s 12.05am Super Casino 3.10am Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel 4.00am The X Files 4.45am House Doctor



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Sunday April 1st

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1

12.40pm Shaun the Sheep Movie



9.00am Painting the Holy Land
10.00am Easter Day From Sheffield Cathedral
11.00am Urbi et Orbi
11.25am The Silent Child
11.45am Bargain Hunt

12.25pm BBC News
12.40pm Shaun the Sheep Movie
2.00pm MasterChef
3.00pm MasterChef
4.00pm MasterChef
4.30pm Escape to the Country
5.00pm Songs of Praise
5.35pm BBC News
5.50pm Regional News and Weather

6.00pm The Big Painting Challenge
7.00pm Countryfile
8.00pm The Generation Game
9.00pm Ordeal by Innocence
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.30pm The Women's Football Show
12.05am Weather for the Week Ahead
12.10am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

4.45pm War Horse



8.35am Countryfile
9.30am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
11.00am Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge
11.45am Lorraine Pascale: How to be a Better Cook

12.15pm MOTD2 Extra
1.00pm Coast
1.15pm Pilgrimage: The Road to Santiago
2.15pm Canterbury Cathedral
3.15pm RAF at 100 with Ewan and Colin Mcgregor
4.45pm War Horse

7.00pm Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall
8.00pm Top Gear
9.00pm Unsealed: Conspiracy Files
10.00pm Mock the Week
10.35pm Top Gear: Extra Gear
11.00pm Selma
1.00am Countryfile
1.55am Holby City
2.55am This is BBC Two
6.15am The Repair Shop
6.45am Money for Nothing

ITV

1.40pm Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory



8.30am Spy School
9.05am Adventure Time
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Love Your Garden
10.00am Countrywise
10.30am The Voice UK

12.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Take Away
1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.40pm Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory
3.45pm Catchphrase
4.30pm ITV Evening News
4.45pm ITV News London
5.00pm Tipping Point

6.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special
7.00pm Change Your Tune
8.00pm The Durrells
9.00pm The Good Karma Hospital
10.00pm ITV News
10.15pm Sherlock Holmes
12.40am Marcella
1.30am Jackpot247
3.00am Take on the Twisters
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show
6.00am Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures
6.10am Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures
6.25am Super 4

Channel 4

4.00pm Dumbo



7.05am King of Queens
7.30am Everybody Loves Raymond
7.55am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.30am Frasier
9.00am Frasier
9.30am Sunday Brunch

12.30pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
1.35pm The Simpsons
2.00pm The Simpsons
2.30pm The Simpsons
3.00pm The Simpsons
3.30pm Ice Age: The Great Egg-Scapade
4.00pm Dumbo
5.15pm The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Homes by the Med
8.00pm Escape to the Chateau
9.00pm Homeland
10.05pm The Green Mile
1.25am The Supertvet
2.20am Coastal Walks with My Dog
3.15am KOTV Boxing Weekly
3.40am The Question Jury
4.35am George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
5.30am Streetmate
6.00am Countdown
6.45am 3rd Rock from the Sun

Channel 5

2.25pm Space Cowboys



8.20am Peppa Pig
8.40am Peppa Pig
8.45am Thomas and Friends
10.05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.35am Police Interceptors
11.40am Police Interceptors

12.40pm Joe Kidd
2.25pm Space Cowboys
4.55pm Stargate
5.55pm 5 News

6.00pm Stargate
7.10pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Bruce Almighty
10.00pm 5 News
10.05pm Bruce Almighty
11.05pm Just Go with it
1.15am Super Casino
3.10am Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel
4.00am The Railways That Built Britain, with Chris Tarrant
4.45am House Doctor

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*Kids Corner -
Children Welcome*

Kempshott

Basingstoke Rugby Club
Pack Lane
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Pat 07500 780553

Oakridge Village

Oakridge Hall for All
Forsythia Walk
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Lynn 07391 138672

TUESDAY

Town Centre

Carnival Hall
Council Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Nikki 0779 5515235

Winklebury

Rooksdown Community Centre
7 Park Prewett Rd
7.30pm
Tel: Tina 07810 147400

South Ham

Westside Community Centre
Paddock Road
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tel: Kirsty 07843 276953

WEDNESDAY

Viables

Viables Craft Ctr, The Barn
The Harrow Way
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Jo 07515 719190

Popley

Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
9.00am & 11.00am
Tel: Jo 07515 719190
Kids Welcome

Popley

Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Julia 07528 131797

THURSDAY

Chineham

Chineham Village Hall
11.30am
Tel: Faith 07966 933994
Children Welcome

Chineham

Chineham Village Hall
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Faith 07966 933994

Brighton Hill

Hatch Warren Infant School,
Gershwin Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Nikki 07795 515235

FRIDAY

Tadley

Ambrose Allen Centre,
Franklin Avenue
9.30am
Tel: Jill 07769 201106

SATURDAY

Oakridge Village

Oakridge Hall for All
Forsythia Walk
7.30am and 9.30am
Tel: Lynn 07391 138672

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Herbies Hot Bite 🍖 Meatballs, bacon, pepperoni, onions & jalapeno peppers			
New Yorker 🍖 Pepperoni, beef, onions, sausage, mushrooms & green peppers			
Herbies BBQ Sizzler 🍖 BBQ sauce, chunks of BBQ chicken, crispy bacon and onion			
BBQ Steak Pizza 🍖 BBQ chicken and steak, sweetcorn, peppers & tangy BBQ sauce			
Rooster 🍖 Double roast chicken, BBQ & tandoori chicken			
Tandoori Pizza 🍖 Tandoori chicken, onions, green peppers, mushrooms & jalapeno peppers			
Chilli Pizza 🍖 Beef, onions, green peppers, fresh green chillies			
Diavola 🍖 Tangy tabasco sauce, beef, pepperoni, onions & jalapeno peppers			
Pepperoni Plus 🍖 Double pepperoni, bacon & mushrooms			
Chicken Feast 🍖 Roast chicken, green peppers, mushrooms & sweetcorn			
Mixed Grill 🍖 Crispy bacon, sausage, mushrooms & tomatoes			
Seafood 🍖 Tuna, onions & prawns			
Pizza 🍖 Ham, pepperoni, sausage & beef			
Vegetarian Supreme 🍌 Onion, mushrooms, tomatoes, green peppers, sweetcorn & black olives			
Vegetarian 🍌 Onion, mushrooms, green peppers, sweetcorn & pineapple			
Vegetarian Hot 🍌 Onions, mushrooms, green peppers, tomatoes & chillies			
The Unsociable 🍌 Mushrooms, green peppers, fresh garlic and tomatoes			
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Monday April 2nd

TOP TV

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

BBC 1

5.15pm
Pointless



9.15am Oxford Street Revealed
Homes Under the Hammer
11.00am The Sheriffs are Coming
11.45am Claimed and Shamed

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.00pm BBC News at One
1.15pm Regional News and Weather
1.25pm Father Brown
2.10pm Garden Rescue
2.55pm Escape to the Country
3.40pm Money for Nothing
4.25pm Flog It!
5.15pm Pointless

6.00pm BBC News at Six
6.20pm Regional News and Weather
6.30pm Celebrity Mastermind
7.00pm The One Show
7.30pm MasterChef
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Classic Mary Berry
9.00pm Lenny Henry: The Commonwealth Kid
10.00pm BBC News at Ten
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Michael McIntyre
11.30pm Live at the Apollo
12.15am Weather for the Week Ahead

BBC 2

8.00pm
Only Connect



7.30am Nature's Weirdest Events
8.30am Gnomeo and Juliet
9.45am Rise of the Guardians
11.15am The Super League Show

12.00pm Funny Lady
2.15pm Trust Me, I'm a Vet
3.15pm Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve
4.15pm Patagonia: Earth's Secret Paradise
5.15pm Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

6.00pm Eggheads
6.30pm The Repair Shop
7.00pm Top Gear
8.00pm Only Connect
8.30pm University Challenge
9.00pm Dave Allen at Peace
10.00pm Dave Allen: God's Own Comedian
11.00pm Z for Zachariah
12.30am Unsealed: Conspiracy Files
1.30am David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities
2.00pm Imagine...
3.30am This is BBC Two

ITV

6.00pm Paul
O'Grady: For the
Love of Dogs



7.20am Horrid Henry
8.20am Wishart
8.50am Scrambled!
9.20am Mission Employable
9.25am Dragonheart
11.25am Free Willy

1.40pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.50pm ITV News London
2.00pm Judge Rinder
3.00pm Dickinson's Real Deal
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs
6.30pm ITV News London
6.45pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm The Kyle Files
8.30pm Coronation Street
9.00pm Marcella
10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather
10.20pm The Real Full Monty
11.50pm The Durrells
12.40am The Kyle Files
1.05am Jackpot247

Channel 4

9.00pm
The Island with
Bear Grylls



7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun
7.35am The Big Bang Theory
8.55am Thunder and the House of Magic
10.35am The Simpsons

12.00pm The Jewel of the Nile
2.10pm Countdown
3.00pm A Place in the Sun
4.00pm A New Life in the Sun
5.00pm Four in a Bed
5.30pm Star Boot Sale

6.00pm The Simpsons
6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm Channel 4 News
7.30pm The Million Pound Holiday Club
8.30pm Travel Man
9.00pm The Island with Bear Grylls
10.00pm Kiss Me First
11.05pm Greg Davies: The Back of My Mum's Head
12.05am Lee and Dean
12.35am How to Get a Council House
1.30am Britain's Favourite Food
2.25am Coastal Walks with My Dog

Channel 5

1.10pm
Seven Brides for
Seven Brothers



8.35am Digby Dragon
8.55am Rusty Rivets
9.05am Mofy
9.15am The Wright Stuff
11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away: Final Demand

12.05pm 5 News Lunchtime
12.10pm Home and Away
12.40pm Neighbours
1.10pm Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
3.10pm Oliver!
4.10pm 5 News
4.15pm Oliver!

6.00pm Neighbours
6.30pm Home and Away
6.55pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The Yorkshire Vet Casebook
8.00pm Police Interceptors
9.00pm Paddington Station 24/7
10.00pm Police UK: Armed and Deadly
11.05pm Caught on Camera
11.30pm Football on 5
12.30am Football on 5
1.00am Super Casino
3.10am Inside Manchester's Midland Hotel

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10 th June	Beagle Aircraft Fly-in
8 th July	CZAW Sport Cruiser Fly-in
8 th August	Starlight Foundation Popham Escape
12 th August*	Motorcycle Mega Meet, Jumble and Fly-in
9 th September	Auster Aircraft Fly-in
23 rd September	Solent Aviation Fly-in
7 th October	End of season Fly-in

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SKODA Octavia VRS 2.0 TSi (245)

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By **Tony Yates**

MANY people still say that Skoda is nothing more than a cheaper version of a VW – and of course I disagree with this very much, because Skoda have proved to me over the last few years that they are more than capable of standing on their own two feet and I for one now look at Skoda as an individual company which produces fantastic cars. I mean just look at the new Octavia VRS. It's an awesome car and it deserves to be right in the spotlight because it's utterly brilliant in every way.

Power and efficiency

The 2.0-litre TSi petrol engine has a 0-62 time of 6.4 seconds and a top speed of 155mph. Fuel consumption is also good, giving a combined figure of 42.8mpg. So, firstly, how well does it get a move on.

Basically, like a scalded Cat if I'm being honest. I'm not kidding here folks it's astonishingly quick. The vRS for me



The new Skoda Octavia is more than capable of standing on its own two feet.

is the total sleeper car – so, be warned, if you do decide to take it on, you will almost certainly be crossing the finish line in second place.

On the road

The 245PS engine that's fitted to the

vRS is enthusiastic and pretty much perfect. Also, into the corners, the chassis feels poised and tight, even when dealing with all the potholes and bumps on some of our worst roads. Plus when the tarmac gets twisty, the chassis firms up to give you maximum grip in and out of every corner. The

steering also feels light, direct and is perfectly balanced with plenty of feedback on what the road beneath you is doing.

Interior & technology

First off I'm so glad to see that the designers at Skoda have paid a lot of attention to the detail inside the cabin of the vRS and thankfully it now feels more refreshing and modern than the previous vRS model I tested a while ago. Also, the seats are really comfy and the controls are well set out – plus the addition of the cabin mood lighting on the door panels is a lovely touch and something that helps soothe the mind.

On the inside, there's plenty of standard equipment, which includes dual-zone air conditioning, cruise control, acoustic rear parking sensors, Amundsen touchscreen satellite navigation system, driving mode selection (eco/comfort/sport/custom), driver fatigue sensor, electro-mechanical front locking differential, driver's seat

with memory function and 19" Xtreme gloss black alloy wheels.

Plus you also get, ESC incl, EBV, MSR, ASR, EDS, HBA and DSR ESBS, TSA, MKB, XDS all as standard along with more kit than you will ever need. That's what I love about Skoda, they are not afraid to give you everything you will ever need, right there when you need it.

Space inside the Octavia is very good – easily managing to fit in a family of four. The boot space alone is also huge – and you would have no trouble at all fitting in the whole family.

Also, if you are looking to own the vRS as a business car, then go and sign on the dotted line right 'now' – before they all sell out.

To sum up

I like the Octavia vRS because it's practical, fun to drive, has bags of torque and plenty of space on the inside. Big Skoda smiles here then.

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'Stoke Dunn in by ex-players

By George Welch

FORMER Basingstoke Town men Manny Williams and Simon Dunn came back to bite the hand that used to feed them by scoring for Slough Town in their 4-1 victory at the Camrose on Saturday.

The Dragons, who had won their last seven home matches, made a dream start for the second week running as Sam Smart found the back of the net in the opening minute.

But Slough, who made it to the second round of the FA Cup, are flying high and bounced back for a second successive 4-1 win.

It did not take the Rebels long to respond with Ben Harris levelling five minutes later for his sixth goal of the season.

The away side sustained pressure on the home goal as Williams and James Dobson tested Colm McAdden in the 'Stoke goal.

It seemed a matter of time before

Town yielded, and their backline was breached for a second time when George Wells blasted home in first half stoppage time.

And it was 3-1 less than 10 minutes into the second period when Williams – the first of the former Dragons to score, escaped his marker and found space to head unchallenged past the helpless McAdden.

Tom Leggett struck the bar with a super strike just after the hour as the hosts tried to get back into the game.

Lee Togwell replaced Dobson as Slough looked to tighten things up, and soon after Basingstoke had a strong penalty appeal waved away when Callum Bunting went to ground under a Mark Nisbet challenge.

Warren Harris and Perry Coles both tested McAdden before Williams set-up fellow former Town man Dunn in injury time to wrap up the scoring.

Town nearly bounced back with a fantastic three points at second-placed King's Lynn Town on Tuesday.



Sam Smart scored the opening goal against Slough Town but they went on to lose 4-1. Picture: Steve Gridley

Sam Deadfield gave the visitors a half time lead but two goals in as many minutes in the closing stages turned the game on its head and the Linnets grabbed a 2-1 win.

Basingstoke play away at St Ives tomorrow (Good Friday) and welcome Farnborough to the Camrose on Monday. Town head into the busy Easter weekend in 11th place.

Sports Shorts

Back to winning ways

BRACES from Oscar Evans and Warren Jones helped Basingstoke Buffalo to their first win in five matches.

The Buffs beat winless Lee Valley Lions 7-4 away from home on Saturday for just their second victory since November 11.

Sam Brooks, Cameron Buckle and Gregory Martyn also netted for 'Stoke, whose last win also came against the Lions in February.

Their South Two campaign comes to an end on April 8 when they host Chelmsford Chieftains.

Tigers fail to pounce

MID-TABLE Tadley Tigers fired a blank as they lost 22-0 at bottom club Abingdon on Saturday.

Tadley, who have had three of their last five games postponed due to the weather, are fifth in the BBO Premier division. They host sixth-placed Blechley in their next game on April 7.

In the London South West division, Basingstoke made it 20 defeats in 20 games with an 86-0 thrashing at mid-table Teddington.

They host eighth-placed Warlingham on April 7.

Long-awaited win

A RORY Wood double helped lowly Whitchurch United to a first win in nine matches.

The striker netted in both halves as the Jam Boys won 2-1 at home to promotion hopefuls United Services Portsmouth 2-1 on Saturday.

Tom Jeffes scored late on for the Portsmouth side but United, playing at home for the first time in seven matches, held on for the win.

Meanwhile, Tadley Calleva reignited their promotion bid with a 2-0 home win over Hythe & Dibden on Saturday and a 6-1 victory over bottom club Folland Sports on Tuesday.

The Tadders have been as low as sixth due to their recent poor form but are up to third in Wessex Division One. The top three are promoted.

Brett Denham got both goals against Hythe & Dibden.

The striker bagged another brace against sorry Folland on Tuesday.

The other goals came from James Tennant, Sam Hamilton, Daryll Phillips and Connor Thorne.

Whitchurch (15th) play away at Andover New Street (2nd) on Friday and Tadley host Downton (11th) on Monday.

Diamonds shattered as Row put on a gem of a performance

HARTLEY Wintney moved to within a goal of the Evo-Stik South East promotion places with back-to-back home wins.

The Row put on a sparkling performance to come from behind and beat league leaders Rushden & Diamonds 2-1 on Saturday before thumping Aylesbury 4-0 on Tuesday.

The Hampshire side fell behind after just three minutes against the

Diamonds, Ben Farrell smashing home from just inside the box.

But the hosts responded well as Nic Ciardini and Jack French went close before Dean Stow's beautifully struck free kick levelled things on the half hour mark.

Hartley kept up the pressure in the second half and grabbed the lead and what proved the winner from the spot on 58 minutes.

Liam Eagle soared highest from a corner and his goal bound header was blocked with a defender's hand. Stow took the penalty and made no mistake with a powerful strike from 12 yards.

Joint manager Anthony Millerick was full of praise for his team: "We have shown all season that we can compete against good sides and get wins. This point was emphasised again today [Saturday]."

The Row moved up to third, level on points with second-placed Hayes & Yeading United, with an easy win over Aylesbury at The Memorial Fields on Tuesday.

Ciardini and Steven Duff netted a brace each, with three of the goals coming in a prolific second half.

Hartley visit Kempston Rovers (9th) tomorrow before entertaining Fleet Town (20th) on Monday.

Ready and raring to go for new Touring Car season

TEAM BMW revealed the colours Hampshire driver Rob Collard will race in during the 2018 championship season.

Collard and Colin Turkington will contest the 2018 Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship in the slick white BMW 125i M Sports with parallel red, navy and blue stripes.

The cars are the same as those with which the WSR-run team won both the manufacturers' and teams' titles last year.

The car appeared on-track for the first time in the new livery at Brands Hatch for pre-season testing on Wednesday last week.

The revised livery pays tribute to the traditional BMW Motorsport

colours that have been carried by countless numbers of championship-winning touring cars since the 1970s.

Dick Bennetts, team principal, said: "We're very pleased to once again carry the BMW Motorsport colours into the new BTCC season on the cars of Colin and Rob and hope they'll prove as successful as they were in our double title-winning season last year."

"We have had a productive few tests in 2018 so far and want to continue this as we conclude our preparations for the start of the new campaign at Brands Hatch in April."

The 60th anniversary BTCC season kicks off at Brands Hatch on April 7-8.



Rob Collard will race in the new Team BMW colours at Brands Hatch on April 7

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Inside: Touring cars ready to race in new season | Buffs net first win in five games | Ex-players condemn Town to 4-1 defeat

Play-off final for Bison after raid on London nets points

By George Welch

BASINGSTOKE Bison continued their stampede towards a daring double after booking their place in the play-off final with a comfortable 10-4 aggregate win over London Raiders.

The Herd enjoyed a 7-4 win in the capital on Saturday before easing to a 3-0 victory in more familiar territory the following day.

The South One champions will face runners up Peterborough Phantoms for the final two-legged showdown this weekend.

Bison were very much in the driving seat from the first leg as Raiders, who finished three places and 19 points behind the Hampshire side in the league, were overpowered by their ruthless visitors.

Josh Smith scored after 38 seconds as 'Stoke darted out of the blocks.

But undeterred, the home side fought back and took the lead through strikes from Jake Pitchley (20 minutes) and Olegs Lascenko (22).

They continued to exchange blows and, by end of an entertaining middle phase, Basingstoke had a 5-4 lead.

Grant Rounding (26), Dan Davies (28), Aaron Connolly (38) and Tomas Karpov (38) found the back of the net in a goal crazy 12-minute spell for the away side.

A Roman Malinik brace (51 & 55)

in the final 10 minutes made sure Doug Sheppard's side had a three goal buffer heading into the second leg.

The game on home ice was more of a subdued affair, although Dean Skinns' shut-out was a record eighth of the campaign for a Bison goalie.

Smith (34 & 40) was again in the goals, scoring twice in the middle period before Paul Petts (50) rounded off the more straightforward 3-0 win.

London had the better of the chances after Petts' goal and their best opportunity came when the impressive Brandon Ayliffe cracked a shot off the helmet of Skinns from the top of the circle.

Smith was denied a hat-trick by Raiders goalie Michael Gray, but it mattered little as Bison set-up a mouth-watering final against Peterborough.

The Cambridgeshire side beat Milton Keynes Thunder 11-3 on aggregate in the quarter final before edging past Autumn Cup winners Swindon Wildcats 9-6 in the semis.

Fans are sure to be treated to a tight affair - Phantoms and Bison have clashed eight times in all competitions this season, both winning four games each.

Bison travel to Peterborough on Saturday before the return fixture on Sunday.

Taylor hoping to ski to podium glory



Picture: Andy J Ryan Team GB

Basingstoke skier Laurie Taylor takes to the slopes this week for the biggest ski competition in Britain after finishing 26th in PyeongChang Winter Olympics last month.

The 22-year-old will compete alongside Dave Ryding in the

Delancey British National Alpine Ski Championships from March 25 to April 6.

Taylor said: "It's a really great event to be a part of and especially great to get the crew together.

"We don't really get to race

together much as we're out competing on different teams throughout the season so it's great when we come to together.

"It's a great atmosphere. Hopefully I can pick up a few more podiums and get close to Dave."

■ To follow the progress of the Delancey British Alpine Ski Team visit www.teambss.org.uk or follow @teambss on Twitter. As Principal Sponsor of British Ski and Snowboard, specialist real estate investment and advisory company Delancey is proud to be able to provide British athletes with the support they require to win World Cup and Winter Olympic medals. For more information visit www.delancey.com

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